

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Name of Assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge	RONALD A. GUZMÁN	Sitting Judge if Other than Assigned Judge	
CASE NUMBER	12 C 8694	DATE	November 2, 2012
CASE TITLE	Larry Banks (#B-42423) vs. Tom Dart, et al.		

DOCKET ENTRY TEXT:

The plaintiff is granted thirty days in which either to file an *in forma pauperis* application on the enclosed form with the supporting information required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) or pay the full \$350 filing fee. The plaintiff must also submit an amended complaint (plus a judge's copy and service copies). The clerk is directed to send the plaintiff an i.f.p. application, an amended complaint form, and instructions along with a copy of this order. Failure of the plaintiff to comply with this order within thirty days will result in summary dismissal of this case. The plaintiff is reminded that he must provide the court with the original plus a judge's copy of every document filed.

■ [For further details see text below.]

Docketing to mail notices.

STATEMENT

The plaintiff, an Illinois state prisoner, has brought this *pro se* civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The plaintiff appears to claim that the defendants, officials at the Cook County Jail, violated the plaintiff's constitutional rights by retaliating against him and by using excessive force against him.

Although this lawsuit is the plaintiff's sixth this year, he has failed either to pay the statutory filing fee or to file a petition for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. As the plaintiff should be well aware, the Prison Litigation Reform Act requires all inmates to pay the full filing fee, even those whose cases are summarily dismissed. In all prisoner civil lawsuits, the court must assess an initial partial filing fee. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The court will direct correctional officials to deduct the initial filing fee payment directly from the plaintiff's trust fund account. Thereafter, correctional authorities having custody of the plaintiff will be authorized and ordered to make monthly payments to the court of 20% of the preceding month's income credited to the trust fund account until such time as the full filing fee is paid.

To enable the court to make the necessary assessment of the initial partial filing fee, the plaintiff must "submit a certified copy of the trust fund account statement (or institutional equivalent) for the prisoner for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint or notice of appeal, obtained from the

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STATEMENT (continued)

appropriate official of each prison at which the prisoner is or was confined.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). Therefore, if the plaintiff wishes to proceed with this case by making installment payments instead of paying the full filing fee in advance, he must file an *in forma pauperis* application on the form required by the rules of this court, together with a certified copy or copies of his trust fund statements reflecting all activity in his accounts in the past six months [that is, from April 30, 2012, through October 30, 2012].

The plaintiff must also submit an amended complaint (plus a judge’s copy and a sufficient number of copies for service on each defendant named in the amended pleading). Because the complaint on file is peppered with incomplete sentences and legal phrases, it is not entirely clear what claims are being raised.

The plaintiff is advised that he may not pursue separate claims against unrelated defendants. As discussed in *George v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007),

The controlling principle appears in Fed. R. Civ. P. 18(a): “A party asserting a claim to relief . . . may join, either as independent or as alternate claims, as many claims, legal, equitable, or maritime, as the party has against an opposing party.” Thus multiple claims against a single party are fine, but Claim A against Defendant 1 should not be joined with unrelated Claim B against Defendant 2. Unrelated claims against different defendants belong in different suits, not only to prevent the sort of morass that this 50-claim, 24-defendant suit produced but also to ensure that prisoners pay the required filing fees -for the Prison Litigation Reform Act limits to 3 the number of frivolous suits or appeals that any prisoner may file without prepayment of the required fees. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

George, 507 F.3d at 607. The plaintiff must choose a single, core claim to pursue under this case number. Any other claims the plaintiff may wish to present must be brought in separate lawsuits.

For the foregoing reasons, the court dismisses the complaint on file without prejudice. The plaintiff is granted thirty days in which to submit an amended complaint on the court’s required form. The court urges the plaintiff either to type or neatly print his amended complaint. The plaintiff should set forth the basic facts, preferentially in chronological order (i.e., including dates), and should use complete sentences. The plaintiff should briefly describe how each named defendant has wronged him. Incomplete sentences and legal buzzwords will only serve to muddy the plaintiff’s claims.

The plaintiff must write both the case number and the judge’s name on the amended complaint, sign it, and return it to the Prisoner Correspondent. **As with every document filed with the court, the plaintiff must provide an extra copy for the judge; he must also submit a service copy for each defendant named in the amended complaint.** The plaintiff is cautioned that an amended pleading supersedes the original complaint and must stand complete on its own. Therefore, all allegations against all defendants must be set forth in the amended complaint, without reference to the original complaint. Any exhibits the plaintiff wants the court to consider in its threshold review of the amended complaint must be attached, and each copy of the amended complaint must include complete (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT (continued)

copies of any and all exhibits. The plaintiff is advised to keep a copy for his files. The clerk will provide the plaintiff with an amended civil rights complaint form and instructions along with a copy of this order.

C In sum, the plaintiff must: (1) either file a properly completed petition to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the statutory filing fee; and (2) submit an amended complaint, plus judge's and service copies. The Clerk will provide the plaintiff with the necessary forms along with a copy of this order. Failure of the plaintiff to comply with this order within thirty days will result in summary dismissal of this case.